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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,791	10/22/2001	Hiroyuki Hakamata	57454-271	8395

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EXAMINER

MULLINS, BURTON S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,791

Applicant(s)

HAKAMATA ET AL

Examiner

Burton S. Mullins

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On p.5, line 13, recitation "Upon the rotating drive of inner ring 13" makes no sense.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, recitation "...transferring a signal...based on the power generated by said power generation circuit" is vague and indefinite functional language. In claim 2, "rotating along" is indefinite. In claim 7, recitations "to transmit a signal through radio" and "to receive a signal...through radio" are vague and indefinite. Since this claim is so indefinite, comparison with the prior art will be performed when it is amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Guers (US 4,688,951). Guers teaches a bearing with a contactless signal transfer mechanism transmitting a signal from a rotary shaft 2 to a fixed shaft 1 comprising: a power generation circuit (left part of bearing, Fig.1, c.3, lines 7-19) generating power between said rotary shaft 2 and said fixed shaft 1, and a signal transfer circuit (right part of bearing, Fig.1, c.2, line 67-c.3, line 7) transferring a signal from said rotary shaft 2 to said fixed shaft 1 based on the power generated by said power generation circuit (c.3, lines 12-25).

Regarding claim 2, note coils 17 and annular magnet 18 of the power generation circuit.

Regarding claim 5, note "probe" 8 which comprises a "magnetic detection element" facing transmission coils 11 wound on a ferrite core (c.3, lines 3-6).

Regarding claim 8, bearings 3 are positioned between the inner and outer rings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guers in view of Laros (US 5,191,309). Guers teaches transmission coils 11 and 17 wound around ferrite cores 6 and 6' on the rotary part of the transmission and power generation circuits, respectively; however, Guers does not teach corresponding coils and cores on the opposed stationary part.

Laros teaches a rotary transformer including rotating and stationary coils 21 and cores 3 and 5. The transformer provides rotary signal transfer having a compact construction (c.1, lines 30-33).

It would have been obvious to modify Guers and provide stationary coils and cores on the transmission or power generation circuits per Laros since this would have provided a compact construction.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guers in view of Rawski (US 4,958,904). Guers does not teach an optical system. Rawski teaches an optical slip ring with a signal transfer circuit comprising a light emitting element 105 provided at rotary shaft 102 to emit light according to a signal, and a light receiving element 44 provided

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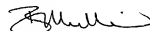
at a fixed shaft 12 facing said light emitting element to receive light from said light emitting element (Fig.1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify Guers and provide an optical slip ring system per Rawski since an optical system reduces signal-to-noise ratios and higher frequency signals may be employed (Rawski, c.6, lines 5-23).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Burton S. Mullins whose telephone number is 305-7063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 305-1341 for regular communications and 305-1341 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-0956.



Burton S. Mullins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2834

bsm
January 2, 2003